

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 14-28 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-5. Applicant has also added new claims 14-28.

Claims 1-5 have been objected to because the Office Action states that the claims are generally narrative, functional, awkward and lack proper antecedent basis.

Applicant has amended claims 1-5 to adapt the claims to U.S. style and to improve the overall form of the claims.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartesaghi (WO 2004/108416).

The present invention relates to a device for cleaning rolls in printing machines. The device comprises a nozzle that is surrounded by a suction chamber. This advantageously allows a steam jet to be sprayed onto the roll via the nozzle to loosen up ink residual left on the roll as a result of the printing process so that the suction chamber can immediately suck up the ink residual immediately. This drastically reduces the amount of water necessary to clean the rolls and significantly reduces the time it takes for the rolls to dry. The prior art as a whole fails to teach and fails to suggest such features or water efficiency advantages.

Bartesaghi discloses a cleaning device. The cleaning device comprises a nozzle 28 disposed in a chamber 29. Impurities are sucked downstream of the nozzle 28 through a slot 23. The slot 23 has a semicircular shape. A jet of compressed air is sent onto the surface of the cylinder through two series of offset holes 35 disposed downstream of the slot 23 to eliminate any residual moisture on the cylinder.

Bartesaghi fails to teach and fails to suggest the combination of a nozzle that is surrounded by a suction chamber. At most, Bartesaghi discloses a suction slot 23 located downstream of nozzle 28. However, Bartesaghi provides no teaching of the nozzle 28 being located within the suction slot 23 as claimed. Figure 3 of Bartesaghi clearly shows that the nozzle 28 is located outside of the slot 23. In contrast to Bartesaghi, the nozzle of the present invention is located within the suction chamber. This advantageously allows the debris left on the roll to be immediately vacuumed up once the jet of steam from the nozzle has loosened the debris. This is significant in the present invention because it severely decreases the drying time of the roll since the water is immediately sucked up through the suction chamber. Compared with the present invention, Bartesaghi merely directs the person of ordinary skill in the art towards positioning a steam nozzle outside a suction slot, but fails to direct the person of ordinary skill in the art towards positioning the steam nozzle within the suction slot as claimed. As such, the prior art as a whole takes a different approach and fails to disclose each feature of the claimed combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claim 1 as now presented and all claims that depend thereon.

Applicant has added new claims 14-28. New independent claims 14 and 20 provide for similar features as found in claim 1, but in different claim language. Independent claims 14 and 20 highlight that the nozzle is surrounded by the suction chamber. New dependent claims 15-19 and 21-28 have been added to clarify the features of the invention. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider new claims 14-28.

Favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
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